



Montgomery County Council

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Council Committee Reviews Progress at County Libraries

Council decisions to bolster staffing and restore hours previously cut at County libraries are being implemented, the Council's Health and Human Services Committee heard today. In addition, the Committee reviewed the plans for new and improved library facilities in the future.

The Council added \$205,000 for this year's budget to increase operating hours at the Wheaton, Bethesda, and Gaithersburg libraries. They also restored \$300,000 to increase staffing. This money allowed for each of the three affected libraries to add four hours of operation onto their weekly schedule. The Council also increased funding for the library systems collections budget by \$173,000.

"The County is growing and library services must keep pace," said George Leventhal, chair of the Committee that oversees public libraries. "We need to have libraries that meet the needs of our residents. The libraries must be open and accessible."

The Committee also reviewed plans for new Germantown and Rockville libraries, which will open in 2005. Future construction includes a new Silver Spring library and a brand new library for Clarksburg. The Council also reviewed significant library usage growth in the Quince Orchard, Shady Grove/Muncaster Mill, and Laytonsville areas.

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